



Monroe County Climate Action Plan Phase II

Strategies & Actions Applicable to Municipalities by Focus Area

Transportation

STRATEGY 2: Active Transportation Infrastructure & Public Transit

Increase bike infrastructure county-wide and improve the connectivity between bike infrastructure networks.
Work with municipalities to fill gaps in sidewalks on County roads with support of Monroe County DOT Municipal Sidewalk program.
Improve maintenance of bike and pedestrian facilities within the county-wide network during all seasons, including plowing bike lanes during winter months.

STRATEGY 3: Facilities & Amenities for Transportation Modes

Encourage bike storage and facilities at employment centers that are connected to bike networks.
Encourage replacement of traffic lights with roundabouts where feasible to reduce time idling and improve traffic safety.

STRATEGY 4: Electric & Alternative Transportation Initiatives

Increase use of electric bikes and scooters.
Increase private electric vehicle (EV) ownership through local, state, federal or private grant opportunities, prioritizing incentives for low-moderate income community members.
Support the development of electric car sharing programs.
Complete a county-wide EV plan. Identify appropriate locations for installation of additional Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations.
Implement the installation of additional Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations, in accordance with County and/or local plans and studies.

STRATEGY 5: Transportation Planning & Policy Development

Advocate for greater state and federal funding for public transit and multi-modal transportation infrastructure.
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STRATEGY 6: Land Use Regulations

Provide resources to municipalities to incentivize higher density development to promote walkability and development along existing public transit routes.
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STRATEGY 7: Alternative Transportation & Reduction of Car Dependence

Encourage employers to reduce car dependence through hybrid work environments, shuttle services to employees outside of public transit services, and other means.
Encourage a reduction of single passenger personal vehicle trips under 5 minutes through an educational campaign.
Reinforce road user safety education, especially to provide consideration to alternative transportation users.

STRATEGY 8: Sustainable Development Features

Incentivize high density and large developments to provide EV charging stations to residents and businesses.
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Buildings & Housing

STRATEGY 1: Urban Planning & Development

Work with County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA) and Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC) to encourage redevelopment of areas targeted for infill that are within public transit or walkable neighborhoods.
Work with COMIDA to implement a scoring policy to encourage high density development/infill.

STRATEGY 3: Educational Campaigns & Community Engagement

Support a county-wide educational campaign on the health benefits of housing upgrades and resources (i.e., Rochester Energy Efficiency and Weatherization program).

STRATEGY 4: Land Use Regulations

Explore the benefits of modifying local land use regulations to allow multi-family units to be built on single-family lots and increasing mixed-use development zoned areas to create more walkable areas. Assist and incentivize municipalities willing to modify local land use regulations.
Provide resources for land use regulations to increase development density in targeted areas by re-evaluating and reducing minimum lot sizes, required setbacks, and parking requirements.

STRATEGY 5: Renewable Energy & Building Retrofits

Increase renewable energy use in buildings, including conversions to heat-pumps and aiming for net-zero buildings.
Explore opportunities for new development to connect with renewable energy sources, in line with New York State requirements for advancing zero emission construction in new buildings.
Encourage the accommodation of historic building adaptations in local codes to allow for opportunities to increase energy efficiency in historic preservation districts and leverage related funding programs.
Encourage increased inspection frequency, thoroughness, and performance requirements of insulation and weatherizing practices in residential homes and apartment buildings.
Consider supporting benchmarking and disclosure programs to help renters and buyers identify energy efficient properties.
Encourage the sharing of information about state weatherization and energy efficiency programs with local residents, organizations, and businesses.
Support education of municipalities and other eligible organizations for green energy grant-funding and assist with grant applications.



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Energy Use & Consumption

STRATEGY 1: Energy Initiatives

Provide resources for local development review boards to consider incentivizing coverage of solar panels above parking areas.
Incentivize the installation of solar panels above parking areas and rooftops.
Identify potential sites that may be suitable for incentivized renewable energy generation projects.
Identify potential locations for battery storage facilities.

STRATEGY 2: Education & Outreach

Provide educational material on energy conservation, fuel switching, and energy use reduction practices.
Expand outreach for C-PACE1 financing and similar programs.

STRATEGY 3: Technical & Financial Assistance

Provide technical assistance to businesses, organizations, and institutions to develop energy reduction goals, seek funding, etc.
Create a database of renewable energy resources, incentives, and tax credits, and connect residents and businesses to these resources.
Encourage municipalities to consider community choice aggregation and demand response programs.

STRATEGY 4: Recognition Programs

Recognize residents, and community and business leaders for their achievements in energy use reduction and sustainability.
Recognize businesses and organizations that achieve sustainable goals and objectives.

STRATEGY 5: Development & Assessment Tools

Develop a tool that includes metrics and benchmarking to assist community partners with their energy use goals.
Consider incorporating evaluations of increased electric energy demand with ongoing infrastructure maintenance and improvement programs.

STRATEGY 6: Planning & Policy

Incentivize municipalities, employers, and community organizations to develop robust sustainability plans with measurable outcomes.
Consider supporting diversification of energy generation and supply models county-wide.
Consider incentivizing geothermal HVAC systems county-wide.
Provide incentives to homeowners and businesses to convert to solar energy.
Consider supporting development of community thermal energy networks.

STRATEGY 7: Renewable Energy & Infrastructure

Support shifting public buildings and schools to renewable energy sources.
Explore opportunities for the use of agrivoltaics on renewable energy sites where practicable.



ADAM J. BELLO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Energy Use & Consumption (continued)

STRATEGY 8: Consumer & Utility Engagement

Support shift to electric small equipment and tools (leaf blowers, lawn mowers).
Promote conversion to LED lighting.

Land & Water Resources

STRATEGY 1: Policy Guidance & Support for Municipalities

Provide guidance to municipalities on climate smart development practices and land use decisions through the development of green code or promotion of existing regional and state codes.
Provide municipalities guidance/support to offer local incentives for green infrastructure like fee discounts, development incentives, rebates and installation financing, and awards and recognition programs.

STRATEGY 2: Environmental Conservation & Land Management

Identify natural ecosystems and open space and opportunities for protection through planning and policies.
Identify opportunity areas for ecorestoration that could offset and sequester emissions from energy use.
Support programs to increase tree cover, establish tree canopy goals across the County, and consider creating a tree fund, prioritizing planting trees in vulnerable areas. Consider supporting an expansion of the City of Rochester's Reforest Rochester Fund.
Support programs to conserve more land in collaboration with land trust organizations and to conserve more wooded lots.

STRATEGY 3: Biodiversity, Habitat Restoration & Habitat Connectivity

Use the Monroe County Environmental Management Council (EMC) to provide recommendations for increasing biodiversity and protecting pollinators and birds.
Support local groups and organizations involved with habitat restoration and provide guidance on educational material and signage at restoration sites.
Explore opportunities to expand habitat areas, open spaces, and native ecosystems. Encourage maintenance based on best practices.
Provide education on the conversion from lawn space to native plantings on both public and private property.

STRATEGY 4: Green Infrastructure & Land Use

Explore opportunities to increase green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff from large impervious spaces county-wide.
Encourage initiatives that support no-mow or low-mow lawns and native plantings.
Provide resources to municipalities to encourage farmland protection in accordance with the County's agricultural land use planning efforts.



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Land & Water Resources (continued)

Identify potential green space expansion, areas to be preserved as green space county-wide, and opportunities for higher density development.

Consider supporting development of brownfields for clean energy generation.

STRATEGY 5: Water Management & Conservation

Identify grants and educational resources for businesses and homeowners to install rainwater collection and graywater systems.

STRATEGY 6: Community Engagement & Education

Create youth and community programs for volunteer maintenance of local green spaces.

Partnerships, Education & Economy

STRATEGY 1: Community Engagement

Support county-wide community campaigns in partnership with existing community groups working on commercial and residential building and vehicle electrification, solar, and other forms of clean energy.

Work with and support local organizations, schools, and employers to plant trees, preserve mature trees, and identify renewable projects.

Support community organizations serving underrepresented populations within the County to assist with the accessibility of affordable clean energy and energy efficiency improvements in disadvantaged communities through informational and funding resources.

Encourage local agencies to collaborate to identify climate-vulnerable populations and develop programs to address their needs.

Develop a Climate Action Toolkit to provide a "roadmap for success" for businesses and organizations, guiding them in implementing effective sustainability strategies.

STRATEGY 2: Educational Development

Develop educational materials about the health impacts associated with greenhouse gases and climate change.

STRATEGY 3: Partnerships & Collaboration

Foster partnerships with local educational institutions and industries to innovate technologies and siting for renewable energy projects that preserve open space and productive agricultural land.

Foster partnerships with educational institutions and industry leaders that have training programs to support and attract a labor force skilled in green technologies.

Consider developing working groups for focus area action implementation.



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Partnerships, Education & Economy (continued)

STRATEGY 4: Economic Development & Business Support

Identify, support, and protect local economic drivers such as outdoor tourism, recreational assets, and agriculture.
Work with economic development agencies to highlight available programs and resources to support businesses and create jobs related to addressing climate change.

STRATEGY 5: Educational & Informational Resources

Encourage municipal officials, residents, and commercial entities to explore renewable energy options such as battery storage and load shifting.
Provide educational resources supporting regenerative economics.
Help identify funding opportunities for climate action available to all stakeholders, including individuals.

Sustainable Materials Management

STRATEGY 1: Waste Reduction Programs

Provide educational material, guidance and support to organizations on the benefits of reducing and diverting organic waste.
Support community groups with their waste reduction goals.
Explore deconstruction opportunities for salvaging construction and demolition (C&D) materials.

STRATEGY 2: Reuse Initiatives

With support of the Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC), further explore reuse education and opportunities in the community.
Support and promote repair cafes and reuse centers.
Encourage restaurants to use reusable dishes and accept customers clean containers for take-out, when practicable.
Reduce food waste and support food donation network to increase food security.
Educate and encourage consumers and businesses to use reusable products, like refillable containers, the reuse or up-cycling of used goods, goods repair, etc.

STRATEGY 3: Sustainable Procurement Policies

Explore green procurement policies and programs and offer community partners opportunities to participate.
Explore more circular solutions (such as a virtual material marketplace) for appliances, textiles, building materials, electronics, furniture, and office supplies.

STRATEGY 4: Recycling Enhancement & Education

Continue efforts to educate the community on how to recycle right to reduce contamination.
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Sustainable Materials Management (continued)

Expand reused, recycled, or recovered materials through the WM1/Monroe County ecopark.
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Expand education campaign about the WM1/Monroe County ecopark and the services it provides to the public.

STRATEGY 5: Business Practices & Corporate Responsibility

Incentivize increased usage of sustainable packaging.

Encourage businesses to track waste, energy, and water data and recognize/celebrate those achieving waste reduction/diversion goals.
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Encourage partnerships to provide technical assistance to support pilot programs on organics management/waste reduction.
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STRATEGY 6: Infrastructure & Resource Efficiency

Identify grant opportunities for electrification of refuse fleets and the use of more efficient routes.
